(c) if so, whether an enquiry has been ordered to probe reasons for purchase of these high cost cranes and fix responsibility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) Chennai Port Trust replaced old cranes by purchasing three new cranes to facilitate import of finished fertilizers and fertilizer raw materials and installed them at Jawahar Dock Berths, where coal is also handled. The cranes are not being utilized since finished fertilizer, raw fertilizer, foodgrains, cut stones, quartz etc., require clean environment. The coal handling operations are to be transferred to Ennore Port from Jawahar Dock Berths.

Payment of loan by JNPT and CPT

856. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust and Cochin Port Trust are in heavy debt for quite long from Government and World Bank;

(b) if so, the amount outstanding as on 31st March, 2001 from each body separately alongwith penal interest;

(c) the steps being taken to repay these loans by Port Trusts; and

(d) if not, whether these loans would be waived off?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (d) An amount of Rs.3,53,22,16,340/- is outstanding on the part of Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust towards repayment of the loans taken from the Government of India. An amount of Rs. 8,77,15,34,935/- is outstanding on the part of Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust towards repayment of the World Bank loans and interest thereon. An amount of Rs.6,40,93,77,712/- is outstanding on the part of Cochin Port Trust towards repayment of the loans taken from the Government of India alongwith interest and penal interest thereon.

Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust has been regularly repaying the instalments on account of the loan taken from the Government of India alongwith interest thereon. In the context of a request made by the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust for their capital restructuring, the Port Trust has deferred repayment of the WORLD BANK loans and interest thereon. Cochin Port Trust has withheld repayment of the instalments on account of the loans taken by them from the Government of India as also the interest due and penal interest thereon pending a decision on their request for restructuring their loan repayment schedule.